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Message Text

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42
ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 IO-03 DPW-01 PRS-01

EUR-10 SPC-01 DRC-01 INRE-00 USIE-00 SSO-00 AID-10

L-02 NEA-07 /088 W
---------- 002654
O R 301153Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1221
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USDEL JEC PARIS UNN
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CGHBMFPAC
CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE
RUHHRGAFCINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER
COMUSMACTHAI
DAO/ SAIGON/AOSOP-OR
USDEL FPHT SAIGON
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 6 SAIGON 1274

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PART VII -- MR 2

1. STATISTICAL SUMMARY: THERE WERE ONLY 77 INCIDENTS BRIEFED DURING THE #3(, AMONG THE LOWEST FIGURES SINCE THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED A YEAR AGO. DURING THE PREVIOUS WEEK THERE WERE 118. PLEIKU PROVINCE REPORTED 29 INCIDENTS, BY FAR THE LARGEST NUMBER IN THE MR. BINH DINH HAD ONLY 17. INCIDENTS WERE ALSO REPORTED IN KONTUM (OLT QUANG DUC KI), DARLAC (7), PHU YEN (14 AND BINH THUAN (1). CASUALTIES WERAELIGHT, WITH RVNAF SUFFERING 11 KIA AND 80 WIA AS A RESULT OF COMMUNIST ACTION. IN ADDITION, AN ACCIDENTALLY EXPLODED GRENADE KILLED 3 AND WOUNQ
R 11 SOLDIERS IN PLEIKU. THE PREVIOUS WEEK, RVNAF HAD 72 KIA AND 184 WIA. COMMUNIST KIA WERE PLACED AT 71 THIS WEEK, DOWN FROM 384. COORDINATION DIFFICULTIES DURING THE TET HOLIDAY RESULTED IN INCOMPLETE INFORMATION ON THE NUMBER OF AIR STRIKES, BUT OF THE 94 REPORTED, 66 WERE IN PLEIKU, 16 IN KONTUM, 8 IN BINH THUAN AND 4 IN DARLAC.

2. PLEIKU/KONTUM: DESPITE THE FACT THAT PLEIKU EXPERIENCED MORE INCIDENTS THAN ANY OTHER PROVINCE IN THE MR, THE GENERAL FEELING WAS ONE OF CALM, THE MR COMMANDER, GENERAL TOAN, APPEARS CONFIDENT THAT HIS MOBILE TACTICS HAVE KEPT THE COMMUNISTS OFF BALANCE AND THAT THEY ARE NOT LIKELY TO LAUNCH ANY SIGNIFICANT ATTACKS FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER MONTH. THE OPERATION WEST OF PLEIKU TOWN IS PROGRESSING VERY SLOWLY WITH RELATIVELY MINOR INCIDENTS REPORTED DURING THE WEEK. PLEI DJERENG IS NOW OCCUPIED BY NEITHER THE ARVN NOR THE NVA/VC. KONTUM HAS ALSO BEEN GENERALLY QUIET; THE LARGEST INCIDENT WAS A CONTACT BETWEEN THE 2ND BATTALION OF THE 40TH REGIMENT AND AN UNKNOWN COMMUNIST UNIT ON JANUARY 27 WHICH RESULTED IN 16 COMMUNISTS KIA. THERE HAVE BEEN AIR STRIKES AGAINST NVA-CONTROLLED ROADS IN BOTH PROVINCES. GENERAL TOAN INFORMED A CONSULATE OFFICER ON JANUARY 19 THAT THE NVA 27TH INDEPENDENT REGIMENT IS NOW CONFIDENTIAL

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LOCATED ABOUT 15 KM NORTH OF KONTUM CITY, BUT HE DOES NOT EXPECT IT TO ENGAGE IN MAJOR ATTACKS SOON.

3. BINH DINH/PHU YEN: THE ATTENTION OF THE BINH DINH AUTHORITIES IS FOCUSED ON QLQON
THE LAND LINK BETWEEN QUI NHON AND PLEIKU.
WE HAVE INTELLIGENCE THAT THE 12TH REGIMENT OF THE 3RD NVA DIVISION, OPERATING IN NORTHERN BINH DINH, HAS BEEN TARGETED AGAINST

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THE HIGHWAY BETWEEN AN TUC AND THE PLEIKU BORDER. THE GOVERN-
MENT HAS DEPLOYED THE 3RD BATTALION OF THE 44TH REGIMENT AND
THE 3RD APC CO, 3RD CAVALRY TO THE AREA TO SUPPLEMENT THREE
RF BATTALIONS ASSIGNED TO ROAD SECURITY. THE PROVINCE CHIEF
IS CONFIDENT OF HIS ABILITY TO KEEP THE HIGHWAY OPEN, BUT IS
CONCERNED FOR THE SECURITY OF SOME 21,0016 RECENTLY RESETTLED
RE5UGEES IN THE VICINITY OF AN TUC. ON QL-1, IN NORTHERN
BINH DINH, THE COMMUNISTS BRIEFLY CLOSED THE BONH SON BRIDGE
ON JANUARY 25, BUT IT WAS REOPENED THE SAME DAY. IN PHU
YEN PROVINCE, COMMUNIST-INITIATED INCIDENTS REACHED THE
LOWEST LEVEL IN SEVERAL YEARS. XGVN FORCES WERE ALSO QUIET
OVER THE TET HOLIDAY.

4. OTHER AREAS: QUANG DUC IS RELATIVELY QUIET, BUT THE 53RD
REGIMENT IN KIEN DUC DISTRICT HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO SHELLING
BY MORTARS AND CAPTURED 105'S. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT SUCH
INCIDENT OCCURRED ON THE NIGHT OF JANUARY 27/28, WHEN ONE OF
THE REGIMENT'S COMPANIES SUFFERED
AT LEAST 5 KIA AND 14 WIA.
COMMUNIST FORCES ARE ALSO SUBJECTED TO REGULAR ARVN SHELLING
(REPORTEDLY 350-450 ROUNDS DAIBP), BUT THE EFFECTS ARE UNKNOWN.
LRDARLAC PROVINCE SAW SOME SMALL ATTACKS IN THE VICINITY OF BAN DON
AND THE PROVINCE CHIEF'S HELICOPTER WAS HIT BY GROUND FIRE IN THE
SAME AREA ON JANUARY 22, BUT THE PROVINCE WAS QUIET OTHERWISE.
THERE WERE NO SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS REPORTED IN LAM DON,
TUYEN DUC, NINH THUAN, KHANH HOA OR PHU BON PROVINCES. BINH
THUAN WAS ALSO QUIET ALTHOUGH 8 AIR STRIKES WERE DIRECTED AGAINST
SUSPECTED COMMUNIST TROOP LOCATIONS THERE.

5. ICCS: PERSONAL RELATIONS BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNIST
DELEGATIONS AND THE PRG AT BEN HET SEEM TO BE SUFFERING SOME
STRAIN. AN OBSERVER ON THE SCENE REPORTS THAT THE FRIENDLY
BANTER WHICH PREVIOUSLY EXISTED AMONG THE COMMUNISTS HAS
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DISAPPEARED AND THAT THE POLISH INTERPRETER RESPONDS CURTLY
TO PRG PRESSURE TO INVESTIGATE THE JANUARY 11 BOMBING OF
R DUC CO. THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS ARE APPARENTLY WAITING
FOR INSTRUCTIONS FROM SAIGON BEFORE TAKING ANY ACLION. THE
BOMBING COMLETELY DESTROYED THE COMMUNICATIONS SHACK AT
THE SITEN INJURING TWO PERSONS. DUC CO HAS NOT BEEN
VISITED BY ANY DELEGATION SINCE JANUARY 10 AND THE POLISH
INTERPRETER CLAIMS THE SITE WILL NOT BE REOPENED. ACCORDING
TO THE SAME OBSERVER, THE PRG DAILY COMPLAINS TO THE COMMUNIST
DELEGATIONS ABOUT SHORTAGES OF GASOLINE, BUT THEY MEET A
BLANK WALL. AIR AMERIRH WILL NOT FLY IN WITH ADDITIONAL
SUPPLIES UNLESS ACCOMPANIED BY AN ICCS DELEGATION AND, IN
WHAT MUST SEEM LIKE CATCH 22 TO THE PRG, THE COMMUNIST
DELEGATION WILL NOT SCHEDULE A TRIP SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSE
OF DELIVERING SUPPLIES. THERE HAS BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT ICCS

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ACTIVITY IN THE REGION DURING THE WEEK.

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NNN

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